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binarization means and engine characteristic information representing engine characteristics of the image output device.

3. An image processing apparatus having input means for
5 inputting, pixel by pixel, a multilevel image containing gray-scale information, and binarization means for binarizing the multilevel image, which has been input by the input means, to a binary image, said apparatus comprising:

10 communication means for communicating with an external image output device via a network;

characteristic-information storage means for storing characteristic information of the external image output device;

15 connectivity control means for controlling connectivity of the binary image, which is binarized by the binarization means, based upon the characteristic information stored by said characteristic-information storage means; and

20 transmitting means for transmitting the binary image, the connectivity of which has been controlled by said connectivity control means, to the external image output device via said communication means.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said
25 characteristic-information storage means reads and stores characteristic information from a storage medium

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gray-scale information, and binarization means for binarizing the multilevel image, which has been input by the input means, to a binary image, said apparatus comprising:

5 communication means for communicating with an external image output device via a network;

 reading means for reading a test pattern for calculating a connectivity parameter;

 parameter calculation means for calculating a
10 parameter, which controls connectivity of the binary image binarized by said binarization means, in conformity with results obtained from said reading means;

 connectivity control means for controlling
15 connectivity of a binary image, which is binarized by said binarization means, based upon the parameter calculated by said parameter calculation means; and

 transmitting means for transmitting the binary image, the connectivity of which has been controlled by
20 the connectivity control means, to the external image output device via said communication means.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the test pattern for detecting connectivity is a test pattern that has been output by the external image output
25 device.

9. An image processing method for inputting, pixel by

pixel, a multilevel image containing gray-scale information, and binarizing the multilevel image to a binary image, comprising:

5 a communication step of communicating with an external image output device via a network;

a characteristic-information storage step of receiving characteristic information of the external image output device at said communication step and storing the characteristic information;

10 a connectivity control step of controlling connectivity of the binary image, which is binarized, based upon the characteristic information stored at said characteristic-information storage step; and

15 a transmitting step of transmitting the binary image, the connectivity of which has been controlled at said connectivity control step, to the external image output device.

10. An image processing method for inputting, pixel by pixel, a multilevel image containing gray-scale information, and binarizing the multilevel image to a binary image, comprising:

a communication step of communicating with an external image output device via a network;

25 a characteristic-information storage step of storing characteristic information of the external image output device;

information, and binarizing the multilevel image to a binary image, comprising:

a communication step of communicating with an external image output device via a network;

5 a reading step of reading a test pattern for calculating a connectivity parameter;

a parameter calculation step of calculating a parameter, which controls connectivity of the binary image binarized, in conformity with results obtained at
10 said reading step;

a connectivity control step of controlling connectivity of a binary image, which is binarized, based upon the parameter calculated at said parameter calculation step; and

15 a transmitting step of transmitting the binary image, the connectivity of which has been controlled at the connectivity control step, to the external image output device.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the test
20 pattern for detecting connectivity is a test pattern that has been output by the external image output device.

14. A computer-readable storage medium storing program code of an image processing method for inputting, pixel
25 by pixel, a multilevel image containing gray-scale information, and binarizing the multilevel image to a

binary image, comprising:

code of a communication step of communicating with
an external image output device via a network;

code of a characteristic-information storage step
5 of storing received characteristic information of the
external image output device;

code of a connectivity control step of controlling
connectivity of the binary image, which is binarized,
based upon the characteristic information stored; and

10 code of a transmitting step of transmitting the
binary image, the connectivity of which has been
controlled, to the external image output device.

15. A computer-readable storage medium storing program
code of an image processing method for inputting, pixel
15 by pixel, a multilevel image containing gray-scale
information, and binarizing the multilevel image to a
binary image, comprising:

code of a communication step of communicating with
an external image output device via a network;

20 code of a characteristic-information storage step
of storing characteristic information of the external
image output device;

code of a connectivity control step of controlling
connectivity of the binary image, which is binarized,
25 based upon the characteristic information stored; and

code of a transmitting step of transmitting the

binary image, the connectivity of which has been controlled, to the external image output device.

16. A computer-readable storage medium storing program code of an image processing method for inputting, pixel
5 by pixel, a multilevel image containing gray-scale information, and binarizing the multilevel image to a binary image, comprising:

code of a communication step of communicating a parameter with an external image output device via a
10 network, said parameter controlling connectivity of the binary image that is binarized;

code of a connectivity control step of controlling connectivity of the binary image, which is binarized, based upon an obtained parameter of an output
15 destination; and

code of a transmitting step of transmitting the binary image, the connectivity of which has been controlled, to the external image output device.

17. A computer-readable storage medium storing program
20 code of an image processing method for inputting, pixel by pixel, a multilevel image containing gray-scale information, and binarizing the multilevel image to a binary image, comprising:

code of a communication step of communicating with
25 an external image output device via a network;

code of a reading step of reading a test pattern

